forming at least part of an edge seal at least partially between the first and second glass substrates by at least using microwave energy directed toward at least part of the edge seal material, and

wherein at least one spacer is provided between the glass substrates for spacing the substrates from one another.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said is carried out in a manner so that after the edge seal has been formed at least certain portions of the tempered glass substrate(s) retains at least about 50% of its original temper strength after the edge seal has been formed.

29. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said is carried out in a manner so that after the edge seal has been formed at least certain portions of the tempered glass substrate(s) retains at least about 70% of its original temper strength after the edge seal has been formed.

30. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said is carried out in a manner so that after the edge seal has been formed at least certain portions of the tempered glass substrate(s) retains at least about 80% of its original temper strength after the edge seal has been formed.

31. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein said forming using microwave energy comprises directing microwave energy having a wavelength of from about 1-10 mm toward the edge seal material in order to form a hermetic edge seal.